OPINION 1865

Eudistoma Caullery, 1909 (Tunicata): given precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Tunicata; Ascidiacea; *Eudistoma*; *Paessleria*.

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 is hereby given precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:

(a) *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Michaelsen (1930) *Distoma rubrum* Savigny, 1816, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;

(b) *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Paessleria magalhaensis* Michaelsen, 1907, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

(a) *rubrum* Savigny, 1816, as published in the binomen *Distoma rubrum* (specific name of the type species of *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909);

(b) *magalhaensis* Michaelsen, 1907, as published in the binomen *Paessleria magalhaensis* (specific name of the type species of *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907).

History of Case 2933

An application to conserve the generic name *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 by giving it precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 was received from Dr Patricia Kott (*Queensland Museum, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia*) on 30 March 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **52**: 254–256 (September 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Gaertner (in Pallas, 1774, p. 40) introduced the new genus *Distomus* (now included in the STYELIDAE, Stolidobranchia) with the single included species *D. variolosus* Gaertner, 1774, which is the type by monotypy. Savigny (1816) referred to Gaertner's genus and species, added the new species *rubrum*, and at the same time (p. 176) used '*Distoma*' without explaining the change of spelling. As an incorrect subsequent spelling *Distoma* is not an available name (Article 33c of the Code; cf. para. 1 of the application). The change in spelling from *Distomus* to *Distoma* was followed by Caullery (1909) and Michaelsen (1930). This does not affect the ruling on *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909.

Gaertner, J. 1774. Zoophyta quaedam minuta. Pp. 34–41 *in* Pallas, P.S., *Spicilegia Zoologica*, part 10.

Decision of the Commission

On 16 September 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN **52**: 255. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bock, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 3: Dupuis, Lehtinen and Štys.

Bouchet abstained.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Abstaining, Bouchet commented: 'The case for maintaining the current usage of *Eudistoma* is well founded and I approve the intention of the application. However, I disapprove of the procedure of giving precedence to a junior name. Retention of the name *Paessleria* serves no practical purpose and I would have preferred that it be suppressed'. Voting against, Dupuis commented that in his view the case related to a taxonomic, rather than a nomenclatural, problem. Lehtinen commented: 'The name *Eudistoma* was invalidly proposed and lack of use of *Paessleria* seems to be due mainly to little work in the original area (the Straits of Magellan). There are no reasons for giving precedence to the junior name'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Eudistoma Caullery, 1909, *Bulletin Scientifique de la France et de la Belgique*, **42**: 44.

magalhaensis, *Paessleria*, Michaelsen, 1907, *Ergebnisse der Hamburger Magalhaensischen Sammelreise*, **8**(5): 69.

Paessleria Michaelsen, 1907, *Ergebnisse der Hamburger Magalhaensischen Sammelreise*, **8**(5): 68.

rubrum, *Distoma* (recte *Distomus*), Savigny, 1816, *Mémoires sur les animaux sans vertèbres*, part 2, p. 177.

The following is the reference for the designation of '*Distoma*' *rubrum* Savigny, 1816 as the type species of the nominal genus *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909:

Michaelsen, W. 1930. *Die Fauna Südwest-Australiens*, **5**(7): 489.